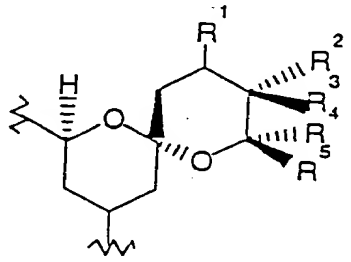
CLAIMS

1. A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one anthelmintically active compound which is an avermectin or milbemycin, in the form of a complex with at least one cyclodextrin.

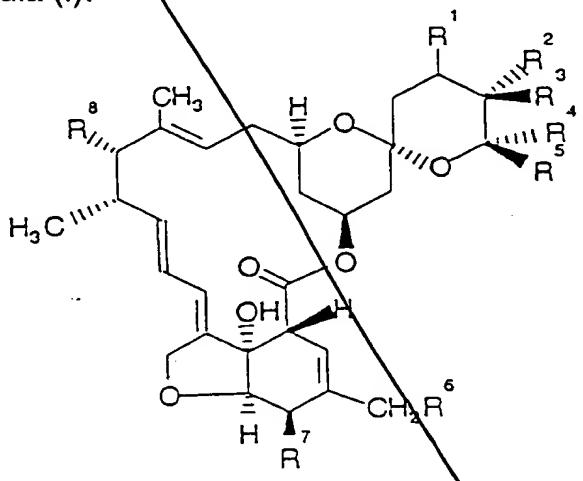
2. A composition as claimed in Claim 1 in which the avermectin or milbemycin is milbemycin, ivermectin, doramectin, moxidectin, nemadectin, abamectin or a compound of the partial formula (i)



(i)

wherein R^1 is an optionally substituted amino or imino group, such as optionally O-substituted oxyimino, optionally N-substituted hydrazone or optionally N-substituted semicarbazone, and R^2 to R^5 are the same or different and each is hydrogen or an organic radical.

3. A composition as claimed in claim 2 in which the compounds of formula (i) are compounds of formula (I):



(I)

wherein R^1 to R^5 are as defined in claim 2, R^6 is hydrogen or optionally protected hydroxy; R^7 is alkoxy, optionally protected hydroxy, oxo or optionally O-substituted oxyimino; and R^8 is hydrogen, optionally protected hydroxy, or a group 4'-(a-L-oleandrosyl)-a-L-oleandrosyloxy or a-L-oleandrosyloxy wherein the terminal hydroxy group is optionally protected.

4. A composition as claimed in claim 3 wherein R^1 is O-substituted oxyimino, R^2 to R^4 are hydrogen, R^5 is an organic radical, R^6 and R^8 are hydrogen, and R^7 is hydroxy.

5. A composition as claimed in claim 3 wherein the protecting group for hydroxy is t-butyldimethylsilyl or acyl (alkanoyloxy).

6. A composition as claimed in claim 2 or 3 wherein when any of R^2 to R^5 is an organic radical, it is C_1-C_{20} alkyl; C_2-C_{20} alkenyl; C_2-C_{20} alkynyl; aryl; heterocyclyl; C_3-C_{20} mono-, bi- and tri-cycloalkyl; C_4-C_{20} mono-, bi- and tri-cycloalkenyl; or aralkyl; any alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl moiety being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, oxo, halogen, trifluoromethyl, and optionally substituted amino; and wherein (a) the term 'aryl' means phenyl and naphthyl optionally substituted with up to five groups selected from halogen, C_1-C_6 alkyl, aryl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, halo substituted (C_1-C_6) alkyl, hydroxy, amino, nitro, carboxy, C_1-C_6 alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxycarbonyl-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkylcarbonyloxy, and C_1-C_6 alkylcarbonyl; and (b) the term 'heterocyclyl' means saturated, unsaturated and aromatic single or fused rings comprising up to four hetero atoms in the ring selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulphur and optionally substituted with up to three halogen, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, halo-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, C_1-C_6 alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxycarbonyl(C_1-C_6) alkyl, aryl or oxo groups.

7. A composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the anthelmintically active compound is 5-oximino-22,23-dihydro-25-cyclohexylavermectin B1 monosaccharide

8. A composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the cyclodextrin is a-, b- or g-cyclodextrin, or a derivative or mixture thereof.

9. A composition as claimed in claim 8 wherein the derivative is a methyl b-cyclodextrin, hydroxyethyl b-cyclodextrin, or hydroxypropyl b-cyclodextrin, or a b-cyclodextrin/epichlorohydrin copolymer.

10. A composition as claimed in claim 8 wherein the cyclodextrin beta-cyclodextrin or dimethyl beta-cyclodextrin.

11. A composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the ratio of avermectin/milbemycin(s) : cyclodextrin(s) is from 1:1 to 1:10 w/w.

12. The use of a composition as claimed in any one of the previous claims for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of helminthiasis of the human or non-human animal body.

13. A method of treating helminthiasis, particularly nematode infestations in domestic animals, which method comprises administering to the animal in need thereof an anthelmintically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11.

14. An animal food containing a composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11.

15. A composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11 which additionally comprises at least one compound with activity against tapeworm.

16. A process for the preparation of a composition as claimed in claim 1, which process comprises preparing a mixture of at least one avermectin or milbemycin, at least one cyclodextrin, and, optionally, a solvent or mixture of solvents, and then removing the solvent or mixture of solvents, if present.

17. A process as claimed in claim 16, wherein the solvent or mixture of solvents is removed by freeze drying, spray-drying, filtration and/or evaporation.

18. A process according to claim 16 or 17 wherein a composition as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 11 is prepared.

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